

St. Thomas More Church

1439 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003

856-424-3212 • Fax: 856-424-2411

Web Site: <http://stthomasmorenj.org/> • E-mail: stthomasmore@comcast.net

Eucharistic Celebrations
 Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm
 Sunday: 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 am
 Weekdays:
 Monday-Friday: 6:45 and 9:00 am
 Saturday: 9:00 am
 Holyday Vigil: 7:30 pm
 Holyday: 6:45 & 9:00 am & 7:30 pm



Rite of Reconciliation
 Saturdays: 3:15-4:00 pm
 or any time by appointment

Reverend Phillip M. Johnson, Priest-in-charge
 Reverend Daniel Joyce, S.J., Weekend Assistant
 Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate for Life Long Faith Formation
 Deacon John Harrington
 Pat Maggart, Parish Catechetical Leader
 Roger Pisani, Pastoral Associate for Music & Liturgy
 Pat Cannon, Parish Secretary • Norma Matos, Parish Secretary
 Sheila Tartamosa, Pastoral Associate for Parish Administration

DIRECTORY

Pastoral Leadership			Worship		
Parish Trustees	Gary Gadren	424-3212	Altar Servers	Deacon John Harrington	424-3212
	Pat Lachnicht	424-3212	Church Environment	Ann Vigrass	428-7217
Christian Life/Education			Ch. Art Environment	Antonina Nicdao	751-6320
Bereavement	Sheila Mohan	795-6137	Eucharistic Ministers	Joyce DeMichele	424-4008
Hospital Visitors	Staff & Euch. Ministers	424-3212	Lectors	Dolores Kreal	988-0271
Intercessory Prayer	Ann Vigrass	428-7217	Linen Committee	Pat Lachnicht	424-5636
Knights of Columbus	Dick Spence	428-8325	Sacristans	Ann Vigrass	428-7217
Marriage Formation	Bob/Liz Scarpa	795-1160		Dom Sacca	
Parish Rel. Ed. Prog.	Pat Maggart	429-6948	Ushers	Tom Petrilli	751-1367
Pastoral Counselor	Claire Spence	428-8325	Music Ministry	Greta Tyrrell	428-2412
Prayer Shawls	Sheila Mohan	795-6137		Frank Krenslak	309-1999
Respect Life	Al Mac Elrath	779-7130		Roger Pisani, Director	609-488-0020
Rite of Ch. Init. Adults	Deacon John Harrington	424-3212		Dolores Kreal	988-0271
	Sister Ann Byrnes	424-3212		Len Kolojechick	346-4078
Rosary Ministry	Marian/Chuck Kapischke	424-2053		June Garafano, Youth Singers	229-7461
Small Christian Comm.	Ann Marie/Bob Lento	424-4759	Social Development		
Spiritual Direction	Deacon John Harrington	424-3212	Bridge Groups	Joyce DeMichele	424-4008
Spiritual Retreats	John Galati	428-7073		Barbara Cerquitella	795-7323
	Denise Radziwill	424-0494	Career Ministry	Al Shaffer	609-417-6770
St. Vincent de Paul	Frank Nicoletti	424-3212	Funsters (over 50 club)	June Garafano	229-7461
Stewardship	Sheila Tartamosa	424-3212	Parish Festival	Bob Lento	344-7454
Youth Ministry	Stan Thompson	424-1120	Women's Club	Committee	424-3212
				Eileen Withers	751-6838
			Administration		
			House of Charity	Sheila Tartamosa	424-3212
			Parish Finance Council	Robert Crawford	424-3212
			Parish Pastoral Council	Marie Enny	751-8893

PARISH MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS

Mission (Purpose)

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we the Catholic Community of St. Thomas More respond to our call to holiness.

Vision (Goals)

Empowered by Baptism, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and formed by the Word of God and the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, we live out our Mission by working together:

- To structure prayerful, vibrant, participatory, Sunday worship experiences.
- To provide Life Long Faith formation for all age levels.
- To care for the young, the old, the sick, the hurting and the needy, both inside and outside our parish.
- To promote faith sharing, prayer, support, learning and listening to one another as a model for nourishing and sustaining our faith community.
- To welcome back, with hospitality, those who have left our faith community.

VISITATION AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the parish office, 424-3212, if a family member is seriously ill or facing/recovering from surgery and would like to see a priest or receive the Anointing of the Sick. Holy Communion is also available to those who are homebound on an ongoing basis.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please make arrangements for Baptism in advance through the parish office. Parents and godparents are required to attend a preparatory session.

MARRIAGE

Couples planning to marry will attend a marriage preparation program called Living in Love. Call office for appointment.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process of formation for full initiation into the Catholic Church. It is open to those never Baptized; those baptized in another faith; and Catholics who have not received First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

For more information, please contact Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate, 424-3212 ext. 104 or Deacon John Harrington, Moderator, at 424-3212 ext. 103.

RCIA Team: John Mohan and Irene Rellosa

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children's Liturgy of the Word – Sunday, during 10 a.m. Mass

Grades one thru four: Tuesday, 4:15 - 5:30 p.m.

Grades five thru eight: Tuesday, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

New members are welcome in our community of faith. Please call, 424-3212, or come to the parish office to register.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Please submit hardcopy and/or e-mail by 4 p.m. Monday.

CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL

John Paul II Regional School - (856) 783-3088

Principal: Mrs. Helen Persing

Vatican II Anniversary Series

At Saint Thomas More Parish

Monday, February 25 — 7 p.m.

"The Church in the Modern World"

Presenter: Father Sean Dempsey, SJ

Tuesday, February 26 — 7 p.m.

Vatican II -- Communing with God Through His Word

Presenter: Father Phillip M. Johnson, STL

Wednesday, February 27 — 7 p.m.

Vatican II — Conversion Yesterday and Today

Presenter: Father Frank Berna

Call the Parish Office, 424-3212, for more information.



Confession on Saturdays During LENT

March 2, 9, 16, 23:

9:30 - 10:00 AM and 3:15 - 4:00 PM



The Knights of Columbus 2nd Annual Winter Fundraising Luncheon will be held at the Outback Restaurant on Saturday, March 9 - Noon to 3 p.m.

Tickets are available in the gathering space after Mass.

David Galloway, Coordinator

SAVE THE DATE!

St. Thomas More

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL PARISH-WIDE

**PROGRESSIVE
DINNER**



St. Thomas More Parish's always popular Progressive Dinner will take place on **Sunday, April 7, 2013** at Caffe Aldo Lamberti, Cherry Hill, **5:30—9:30 P.M.** \$49 per person. **For reservations & menu selections please call Mary Lou Thomas, 856-429-1379 or Barbara Cerquitella, 795-7323.**

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

February 17, 2013

\$9,031.50

227 Envelopes

May the Lord bless you for your generosity to your parish.

In Gratitude for Pope Benedict XVI

Fr. Phillip Johnson

The day the pope announced that he would soon relinquish his office, just as we in the Camden Diocese were saying farewell to our own Bishop Galante, my oldest child Alison phoned. “Well, the bishop who called you to the priesthood and the pope who approved your ordination are both saying farewell at the same time.” Then she asked, partly in jest, “Do you feel abandoned?” “No, not at all abandoned, maybe a little sad,” I answered.

I am no expert on the papacy of Benedict XVI. My knowledge of him is mostly in his role as a theologian and philosopher, from the time he served as one of the youngest “experts” at the Second Vatican Council until now. But there are pieces of information, little episodes reported by others, and countless passages in his writings that have blessed my life and won my affection for him. So I wanted to share with you with my personal gratitude for his life and work.

Joseph Ratzinger, long before he became Benedict XVI, was one of the theologians who drew me into the Catholic Church. As a professor of theology at German universities, and later as Archbishop of Munich, he more or less grew up in dialogue with Lutherans. He was intimately familiar with the questions asked and issues raised by Lutherans – about devotion to Mary, authority in the Church, apostolic succession, etc. So when I read his books and articles, it often seemed to me he was addressing me personally. He has been a passionate advocate of *honest* ecumenical dialogue. As head of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) he fought hard for the Catholic-Lutheran “Joint Statement on the Doctrine of Justification,” even as he was very honest in his criticism, addressing hard questions to his dialogue partners.

In some ways, he remained always a professor. As pope, this sometimes got him into trouble, as at Resenbourg when he fell into a philosophical analysis as to why the Islamic religion has trouble joining faith and reason together in their understandings of God.

But he has also always been an honest and decisive man as a Church leader, facing up to the sins and corruptions of Church officials. When many Vatican officials still considered the child abuse scandal overly exaggerated, it was Cardinal Ratzinger that had his staff at the CDF give every Friday morning to reading the reports coming from the U.S. and elsewhere. He called it “our required Friday penance.”

Indeed, he often could not help showing his own fatherly tenderness and respect for children, sometimes breaking with the official mood of a gathering to carry on conversations with children and their parents. My dear friend Joan Litman directs children's choirs at the United Nations School in New York. In the pope's visit to the U.N she was charged with providing choral music in a large gathering hall through which he was to pass. Among the music carefully chosen was a lovely German evening hymn, *O Welt, Ich Muss Dich Lassen*. When the pope heard the children's voices raised, he “broke ranks” walked straight over, stood there by Joan, and joined with the children in the singing. Only after taking a little time to greet several of the children and ask about Joan's work, he returned to his prescribed duties.

That story somehow reflects a part of the legacy of this pope which I pray will endure – his deep Christian “humanism” or “personalism.” The Vatican Council's longest document, *Gaudiam et Spes*, speaks eloquently of the way in which Jesus Christ, in revealing God to us, also reveals us to ourselves, showing us the great dignity of the human creature, of each individual person. The young Joseph Ratzinger had a part in the shaping of that text; he would later write the official commentary on it; he has cited it repeatedly throughout his ministry. It is the great New Testament theme of Christ as the New Adam, who restores and renews our humanity, revealing the spiritual destiny of the human person.

As he retreats into the hidden life of prayer for the Church – a life he has long desired – may God grant that his long labors may bear abundant fruit for generations to come.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Ministry Schedule for March 2 and 3, 2013

Mass Time	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 p.m.	Father Johnson	C Pisani R Pisani	R Crawford, D Kreal I Rellosa, G Tyrrell	J Mohan	E Barbera, I Fulton D Ha, B Scarpa
8:30 a.m.	Father Johnson	R Kapischke R Pisani	A Pajic, P Rossi Sr. Rosaria B Scarpa	J Vecchiola	D DeMarco K Johnson B Scarpa
10:00 a.m.	Father Joyce	Adult Choir S Caccavale R Pisani	K Glover N/P Kirincic J Mazzagatti	N Albone	R Caton A/T Rumell
11:30 a.m.	Father Joyce	C Malatino A Rivero R Pisani	M Garber B/AM Lento D Staton	J Arnold	C Arnold M Lender H Rosenblatt

YOUTH GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sr. – High School students Jr. – 6th through 8th grades

The Youth Group presented a \$1,733 check to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul from their Souper Bowl of Caring project. Thanks again to the Parish for your support.



Stan Thompson, YG Coordinator-424-1120

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The fifth Confirmation II class will be held this Sunday, February 24, at 11 a.m. in the St. Thomas More Parish Hall. All eighth grade students are expected to attend the 10:00 Mass prior to class.

The sixth Confirmation I class will be held next Sunday, March 3, at 11 a.m. in the St. Thomas More Parish Hall. All seventh grade students are expected to attend the 10:00 Mass prior to class.

There will be no Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) classes on Tuesday, February 26 for the evening students in Grades 5-8 (due to the Parish Mission). Students in Grades 1-4 will attend classes as usual.

Pat Maggart, PCL, 424-3212 - ext. 106

SCC FACILITATORS are reminded that they are invited to breakfast on Saturday, March 2 at 10 a.m. at Ponzio's Restaurant. This gathering allows us to share how our small communities are progressing and to support one another in this important parish ministry. Please RSVP to Sister Ann (424-3212 by Feb. 28).

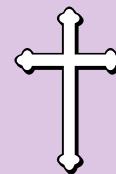
THANK YOU to all who helped make 350 sandwiches and utensil packages for the Cathedral Kitchen last Wednesday, February 20.



The Women's Club—Marianne Wilkins, Coordinator

“ACTS OF SACRIFICE” for Lent

In the Gathering Space is a Large Cross draped with a purple shroud. We invite all parishioners to write an “Act of Sacrifice” they are performing for Lent on one of the small white crosses in the gathering space.



Then place the cross in the box provided as a sign of your commitment. These crosses will be placed on the shroud during Lent, and will be burned in the Lighting of the Easter fire at the Easter Vigil. May our personal sacrifices be a concrete sign of our love for Christ, and may they enhance our spiritual preparation during this Holy Season.

**MASS INTENTIONS
FOR THE WEEK**



SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 23

9:00 am Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
4:30 pm Vincent Giordano, Jr. r/b Angelo & Carol Ariani

SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 24

8:30 am People of the Parish
10:00 am Tom McCorkell r/b Dudley & Mary Lou Thomas
Lillian Talucci r/b Ron & Angela Panna
11:30 am William Camishion r/b Dick & Claire Spence

MONDAY - FEBRUARY 25

6:45 am Thomas R. Petronella r/b Michael Curtis
9:00 am Sara Centonze r/b Thursday a.m. SCC Group

TUESDAY - FEBRUARY 26

6:45 am Thomas R. Petronella r/b Michael Curtis
9:00 am Vincent Caruso r/b Paul Charette

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 27

6:45 am Thomas R. Petronella r/b Michael Curtis
9:00 am Sara Centonze r/b Sheila Moore

THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 28

6:45 am Thomas R. Petronella r/b Michael Curtis
9:00 am Lisa Benson r/b Rona Kornfeld
Richard Campbell r/b Dick & Claire Spence
Raymond G. McCarthy r/b Christine Torello

FRIDAY - MARCH 1

6:45 am Joseph Pottackal r/b Family
9:00 am Joan Radula r/b Rochelle Cohen & Rex Sexton

SATURDAY - MARCH 2

9:00 am Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
4:30 pm Thomas Sweeney r/b John & Sheila Mohan

SUNDAY - MARCH 3

8:30 am Joseph & Alice Pottackal r/b Family
10:00 am Joseph Zielinski r/b Cindy & Family
Frank Upchurch r/b Dudley & Mary Lou Thomas
11:30 am Kathleen Frain r/b Jack Boesch

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:
THE DECEASED... Taryn Mokszycki.**

THE SICK...

Don Kreal	Bob & Claire Boylan
Maria Storms	Naomi Willingmyre
Phyllis Schadt	George Sweeten
Mary Flacco	FrankCappetta
Ron Massey	Michael Kapischke
Olga Mignone	Betty O'Donnell
Frank Colbert	Marie Mazzagatti
Mary Cowan	Stanley Kochanek
Shirley Birch	Pauline Rosberg
Jean Colbert	Joseph Console
Dorothy Brink	Geralyn Coticone
Pat Barton	Jerry McMenamin
Leila Lore	Pasquale DiFronzo
Chase Lupica	Dorothy Wolenter
Pat Beaney	Mary Branciforte
YunYun Shen	Virginia Gormley
Virginia Foley	Angelo DiGiacomo
Fran Swider	Wayne Mauri, Sr.
Rose Hession	Francesca Capra
Danny Perla	Chuck Kapischke
Anna Bedrick	Deacon Jim Smith
	John B. Kennedy



Joanne James
Alfred DiFrank
Chris Kolodzey
Marie DiFrank
Ethan Killeen
Carlos Santiago
Betty Brennan
Denise Daniels
Sharon Bushelli
Michael Suralik
Bill O'Donnell
Teddy Shaffer
Bill Botensten
Ed Rivero
Paul Charette
Pat Brink

THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES...



Lt. Col. Allison Agar, Lt. Cdr. Richard P. Byrnes, Jr., Pvt. 1st Class Mario Centofanti, Lt. Anthony R. Cosentino, Capt. Anthony T. DeMarco, Sr. Airman John P. DeYoung, Lt. Nicholas G. Iannuzzi, PFC Sonny Morrison, Major Ryan Orfe, Lt. Col. Louis J. Papa, SSgt Arturo Rivero, Jr., Lt. Col. Karl Rohr, SPC Giselle M. Torres and Sgt. Michael Willingmyre.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Stewards Sacrifice

*"I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession."
(Genesis 15:7)*

Just as the Lord gave Abraham, Moses and the Israelites a land to possess, He has also given each of us a home. Whether our home is grand or humble, it is a gift from God. Abraham prepared a great sacrifice to the Lord in gratitude for the home God gave him. How do we show our gratitude to God for the home He has given us? Do we live *Stewardship* by making a sacrifice of any kind? Do we return any of our finances to God, investing equally in our eternal home just as we invest in our current abode?



The Stations of the Cross are being held on Friday evenings during Lent at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

Small Christian Community Faith Sharing

Please note that we put the following week's Gospel passage in this space so you can prepare all week for proclamation of the Gospel the following Sunday. Faith Sharing helps ordinary people connect their faith with everyday life experiences.

Excerpt from the Gospel for the Third Sunday of Lent, March 3, 2013 – Luke 13:1-9

Jesus told this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?' He said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.'"

Commentary:

Another name for God is Compassion. It's a word that means "to suffer with," and in the life of Jesus, we see how God came to reveal that name to us. In the story of the orchard, we often think God is represented by the impatient owner who wants the fruitless tree cut down. Since we've been taught to think of God as the great Judge in the sky, this identification makes sense. But in the story, Jesus takes the role of the gardener who desires to rescue the tree from imminent destruction. One more year, he begs, and I shall try again to coax this barren tree into life. That second chance is offered to each of us from the God of Second Chances, the God who cares about flailing humanity unable to pull its act together despite a long history of knowing better. Each Lent is that second chance, another season that comes to us like a gift and an opportunity to turn the page and the corner on where we've been headed.

Questions for Reflection and Sharing:

1. What is God saying to me in this Gospel passage?
2. What word or phrase in this Gospel speaks to me?
3. What word or phrase in the Reflection resonates with me?

Ronald McDonald House
of Southern New Jersey



Not just giving something up for Lent but DOING something good for Lent!



Last Saturday, members of the Women's Club and Youth Group volunteered to make and serve breakfast at the Ronald McDonald House in Camden. Residents received a warm greeting and hot breakfast. We met many wonderful families including a woman with triplets who adopted seven special needs children.

We were reminded of our many blessings as we served families during a very difficult time in their lives.



We must help those who are suffering, but we may not use a good end to justify an evil means. Moreover, treatments that do not require destroying any human life are at least as promising — they are already healing some conditions, and are far closer to healing other conditions than any approach using embryonic stem cells. The choice is not between science and ethics, but between science that is ethically responsible and science that is not.

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
Al Mac Elrath, Respect Life Coordinator - 779-7130

Bishop Sullivan's prayer card commemorating his installation as the Eighth Bishop of Camden will be available at the Church doors.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church (1989 Rte. 70, Cherry Hill) presents an Instrumental & Choral Concert Praising & Thanking God For The Great Things He Has Done "TO GOD BE THE GLORY," Next Sunday, March 3 at 4 p.m. For more info call 424-2229. A voluntary donation will be collected to fund this Musical Recital.